

## **Standby Generator systems within the City of Huntsville**

The installation of backup generators, not required for life safety, is covered in the 2005 National Electric Code (NEC) Articles 445 & 702. The addition of a system of this type does require a permit and inspection. The following information is intended to clarify this Article for an electrician.

1. An approved transfer switch is required. The transfer switch shall be mounted outside the structure and within 18" of the meter can if possible. (702.6)
2. A disconnect is not required to be placed between the transfer switch and the panel unless the service entrance conductors exceed the tap rule. (702.9)
3. If the generator is not within sight of the meter, the transfer switch enclosure must have a sign on it stating the location of the generator. (702.8)
4. The conductors must be permanently labeled inside the transfer switch or a permanent diagram shall be posted inside the transfer switch enclosure showing where each power source is coming from and through what enclosures they pass. (702.8)
5. The load side conductors may pass through the meter can. The entire length of the conductors from the meter to the panel must conform to the tap rule. All other requirements from chapters 3, 4 & 5 also apply. (702.9)
6. A lockable disconnect from the generator to the transfer switch shall be required. If the generator is not within sight of the meter can, then the disconnect means must be installed adjacent to the meter and transfer switch. The disconnect means shall be permanently labeled. (445.18)
7. Grounding may be interconnected with the structures grounding electrode system and sized in the same manor as a grounding electrode conductor but based on the derived phase conductor of the generator. Be careful to prevent a parallel neutral connection with conduit. See Article 250.30(3). (702.10)

If you have any questions regarding this, please call.

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